

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 053980
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING:LLL
APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ
EUR/SE:NCLEDSKY
EUR:REBARBOUR
S/S- MR. ORTIZ

-----110119Z 116141 /22

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053980

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: US-GREEK RELATIONS
SUMMARY

1. COUNSELOR-DESIGNATE NIMETZ MET WITH GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS MARCH 9 TO REVIEW RESULTS OF CLIFFORD MISSION AND TO OUTLINE IN GENERAL TERMS CLIFFORD'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS. NIMETZ NOTED THAT ALEXANDRAKIS WAS FAMILIAR WITH TALKS IN ATHENS SINCE HE HAD BEEN PRESENT. CLIFFORD HAD SENT GREEK GOVERNMENT BRIEF SUMMARY ON DISCUSSIONS IN ANKARA AND NICOSIA BUT WE WANTED TO SHARE WITH GOG DEVELOPMENTS SINCE PARTY RETURNED TO WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY

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2. NIMETZ SAID THAT CLIFFORD HAD FULLY CONVEYED IN ANKARA DEPTH OF CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY KARAMANLIS RE AEGEAN. THIS HAD BEEN DONE BOTH AS A SERVICE TO GREECE AND BECAUSE THE US WAS GENUINELY CONCERNED WHENEVER THERE WERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WITH WHOM WE HAVE CLOSE RELATIONS. THE TURKS HAD LISTENED CAREFULLY TO CLIFFORD, GIVEN THEIR VIEW ON EACH SPECIFIC ISSUE BUT HAD CLEARLY AND FORCEFULLY

DENIED THAT THEY WERE EMBARKED ON EXPANIONIST POLICY OR INTENDED TO MAKE ANY CHANGE IN AEGEAN WHICH WOULD AFFECT GREEK SOVEREIGNTY. THEY DENIED THAT THE AEGEAN ARMY WAS OF THE MAGNITUDE SUGGESTED TO CLIFFORD IN ATHENS AND REFERRED TO GREEK MILITARIZATION OF ISLANDS CONTRARY TO TREATY OBLIGATIONS.

3. NIMETZ TOLD ALEXANDRAKIS WE THOUGHT EXCHANGE WITH TURKS ON AEGEAN HAD BEEN USEFUL AND WHILE ANSWERS GIVEN AND POSITIONS ON PARTICULAR ISSUES WERE NO SURPRISE, ALL CONCERNED WERE NOW AWARE OF SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH AEGEAN QUESTION WAS VIEWED IN BOTH CAPITALS. NIMETZ NOTED THAT BOTH GREEK AND TURKISH GOVERNMENTS STRESSED TO CLIFFORD IMPORTANCE OF CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS TO RESOLVE AEGEAN ISSUES BUT THEY INTERPRET BERN AGREEMENT AND PURPOSE OF CONTINENTAL SHELF DISCUSSIONS IN VERY DIFFERENT WAYS.

4. NIMETZ EMPHASIZED THAT THE USG FELT THAT ONLY THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD WORK OUT A RESOLUTION OF THE COMPLEX CONTINENTAL SHELF AND RELATED ISSUES AND WE HOPED THAT THIS COULD BE DONE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. WE PARTICULARLY HOPE THAT THE PARIS CONTINENTAL SHELF SESSION IN MARCH WILL BE PRODUCTIVE.

5. WITH RESPECT TO THE AEGEAN AIR SPACE ISSUE, NIMETZ TOLD ALEXANDRAKIS THAT CLIFFORD HAD ASKED THE TURKS IN ANKARA WHY A SETTLEMENT COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED AT LEAST ON THIS PROBLEM SINCE THE TWO PARTIES SEEM SO CLOSE IN THEIR POSITIONS HE EXPRESSED HOPE TO ALEXANDRAKIS THAT GREEKS COULD ALSO TRY TO COMPLETE AGREEMENT.

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6. ON BILATERAL MATTERS RAISED WITH CLIFFORD, NIMETZ INDICATED THAT AVEROFF LETTER WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON AS WAS REQUEST THAT APRIL 1976 LETTER FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER TO FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS BE REAFFIRMED.

7. WITH RESPECT TO MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY AND THE CONGRESS, NIMETZ INFORMED ALEXANDRAKIS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD IN PRINCIPLE SUPPORT APPROVAL OF THE US-TURKEY DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT, WOULD NOT PRESS CONGRESS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION, BUT WOULD MOVE FORWARD WITH DCA AT "APPROPRIATE TIME." WE WOULD ALSO BE SEEKING REASONABLE FMS CREDIT/GUARANTEE AUTHORIZATION FOR FY 1978 WHICH WOULD ALLOW TURKEY MEET ITS NATO COMMITMENTS. QUESTION OF GRANT ASSISTANCE WOULD BE HELD PENDING ACTION ON DCA. TIMING OF ADMINISTRATION ACTION ON TURKISH DCA WITH CONGRESS WOULD DEPEND ON VARIOUS FACTORS, INCLUDING OUR ASSESSMENT OF ATTITUDE OF CONGRESS AS WELL AS PROGRESS

IN CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS. NIMETZ EMPHASIZED THAT ADMINISTRATION WAS CAREFULLY NOT PUBLICLY LINKING PROGRESS ON CYPRUS TO TURKISH DCA.

8. NIMETZ INDICATED TO ALEXANDRAKIS THAT WE HOPE THAT GREEK DCA IN FINAL FORM COULD BE CONSIDERED BY CONGRESS AT SAME TIME IT TOOK UP TURKISH DCA. OUR PRELIMINARY THINKING WAS TO RESUME TALKS AT TECHNICAL LEVEL, EITHER IN ATHENS OR WASHINGTON, WHENEVER GREEK GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO MAKE EFFORT CONCLUDE WORK ON REMAINING ISSUES. NIMETZ NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR KUBISCH WOULD BE DISCUSSING DCA NEGOTIATIONS FURTHER WHEN HE RETURNS TO ATHENS NEXT WEEK AND THAT DECISION COULD THEN BE TAKEN ON LEVEL/NATURE/LOCUS OF TALKS.

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10. IN RESPONSE, ALEXANDRAKIS WONDERED IF ADMINISTRATION'S LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY DID NOT RISK TURKISH BACKSLIDING AND ASKED WHETHER LEVERAGE ON TURKS SHOULD NOT BE RETAINED UNTIL RESULTS OF VIENNA TALKS COULD BE EXAMINED. NIMETZ RESPONDED THAT HE THOUGHT TURKS RECOGNIZE THAT NO VOTE IN CONGRESS IS LIKELY UNTIL A SUFFICIENT DEGREE OF PROGRESS ON CYPRUS TAKES PLACE.

11. ON AEGEAN, ALEXANDRAKIS HOPED THAT US COULD MAKE CLEAR THAT IT OPPOSES PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS. NIMETZ THOUGHT THAT "PROVOCATION" WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO DEFINE BUT SAID THAT CLIFFORD HAD MADE CLEAR IN ANKARA GREEK CONCERNS.

12. ALEXANDRAKIS REFERRED TO TFSC UNILATERAL PROCLAMATION OF A FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION IN NORTHERN CYPRUS AND CHARACTERIZED THIS AS "ANOTHER OMINOUS SIGN" OF TURKISH CYPRIOT EFFORTS TO SPLIT THE ISLAND INTO TWO PARTS. NIMETZ SAID THAT THIS MATTER HAD NOT BEEN BROUGHT UP WITH CLIFFORD IN EITHER ANKARA OR BY DENKTASH AND EXPRESSED VIEW EVERY INDICATION WAS THAT NEITHER ANNEXATION TO TURKISH MAINLAND NOR PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENT TURKISH

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PAGE 01 STATE 053980
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011
DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:PCOLLINS
APPROVED BY EUR:AHUGHES
EUR/SE:REWING
S/S:LRMACFARLANE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053980

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USUN NY LONDON 11 MAR 77 QUOTE

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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Subject: US-GREEK RELATIONS SUMMARY
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